CLAIMS

1. An image processing technique comprising the steps of:

(a) stretching an original image in the Y-direction (vertical) by a factor falling within the range of 2-10%;

selecting a fixation point and disordering the image centring the disordering operation around the fixation point; and

rotating the image through an angle falling within the range 3-9°;

(b) stretching a copy of the original image in the X-direction (horizontal) by a factor falling within the range of 2-10%; and

selecting an area of the image around the selected fixation point; and

(c) merging the selected area of the image formed in step (b) with the image formed in step (a).

2. A technique as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising an additional step of fine tuning the boundary between the images formed in steps (a) and (b).

3. A technique as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein step (a) of the processing technique further includes steps of altering the contrast by a factor falling within the range of 10-40% and/or decreasing the colour saturation of the image by a factor falling within the range 10-40%.

4. A technique according to Claim 3, further comprising a step of decreasing the brightness by a factor falling within the range 2-40%.

5. A technique according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the rotation is undertaken in the clockwise direction.

6. A technique according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the disordering operation of step (a) involves disordering the image in line with a self-similar fractal disorder pattern.

7. A technique according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising, in step (a), identifying at least one boundary or edge of at least one object and introducing a disruption in the degree of disordering at the said boundary or edge.

8. A computer programmed to perform the technique of any of the preceding claims on image data derived from a scanner, a digital camera, or on digital image data obtained or created from other sources including computer programs.

9. An image processing technique substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.